

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07

ACDA-10 /102 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:MRDWORKEN:ML

APPROVED BY PM/ISO - G CHURCHILL

----- 110891

R 282034Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 045751

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, GW, UK, RP, IT, JA, XX

SUBJECT: PHASE-OUT OF 440L OTH RADAR SYSTEM

REF: STATE 45431 (NOTAL)

STATE 45432 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING EXTRACT FROM SECDEF'S UNCLASSIFIED DOD REPORT TO THE CONGRESS, DATED FEB. 5, IS PROVIDED IN AMPLIFICATION OF STATEMENTS ON 440L SYSTEM CONTAINED IN REFTELS.

2. QUOTE BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HIGH CONFIDENCE WARNING TO OUR OVERALL STRATEGY, WE HAVE ADOPTED THE POLICY OF ENSURING COVERAGE OF ALL RELEVANT STRATEGIC MISSILE LAUNCH AREAS BY AT LEAST TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF SENSORS (SENSING DIFFERENT PHENOMENOLOGY). SUCH AN APPROACH MINIMIZES FALSE ALARMS AND POTENTIAL NATURAL INTERFERENCE, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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INSURES CRITICAL AREAS ARE ALWAYS COVERED.

QUOTE WITH REGARD TO ICBMS, FIRST WARNING OF A SOVIET (OR PRC) LAUNCH WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE SATELLITE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM SATELLITE MAINTAINED ON STATION OVER THE EASTERN HEMISPHERE. PREVIOUSLY, THIS WARNING WOULD HAVE BEEN

VERIFIED FIRST BY THE FORWARD SCATTER OVER-THE-HORIZON (OTH) RADAR SYSTEM AND THEN BY THE BALLISTIC MISSILE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (BMEWS). BUT, AS I POINTED OUT LAST YEAR, THE FORWARD SCATTER OTH SYSTEM IS VERY SENSITIVE TO ATMOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES AND HENCE CONSIDERABLY LESS RELIABLE THAN THE SATELLITE AND BMEWS SYSTEMS. WE, THEREFORE, HAD PLANNED TO PHASE OUT THIS SYSTEM WITH ITS FOUR TRANSMITTERS AND FIVE RECEIVERS, IN FY 1976. AT THE URGING OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, THE SYSTEM IS BEING PHASED OUT IN FY 1975 TO ACHIEVE AN ADDITIONAL YEAR OF SAVINGS IN OPERATING COSTS. WE ARE QUITE CONFIDENT THAT THE REMAINING TWO SYSTEMS, TOGETHER WITH AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HIGHLY CREDIBLE WARNING OF ICBM ATTACK. END QUOTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** BONN MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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